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SUBJECT: POLISH APPROACH TO SEPTEMBER 1-2 EU GYMnich

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Classified By: Deputy Pol Counselor Bill Mozdzierz, reasons 1.4bd

1. (C) Responding to reftel points, Polish MFA Director for CFSP Beata Koleccka confirmed that Poland will hold a firm line against any new conditions for the start of Turkish accession talks, resist efforts to soften ICTY conditionality for Croatia, and maintain positions complementary to the U.S. approach on Iran, the Middle East peace process, and Iraq. At the Newport Gymnich meeting, Polish Foreign Minister Daniel Rotfeld is likely to highlight the challenges posed by Belarus, Koleccka reported, and will also encourage EU engagement in Ukraine in the course of discussions on enlargement.

2. (C) Turkey: Koleccka reiterated Polish opposition to any new conditions for the start of EU accession talks October 3. Turkey has fulfilled its obligations, she stressed, and now the EU must keep its commitments. Furthermore, talk of a "privileged partnership" for Turkey is unacceptable, Koleccka stated flatly, indicating that Poland will insist that the process must be open to full membership. Koleccka admitted that Turkey's declaration concerning non-recognition of Cyprus was unhelpful, but noted that Polish legal experts have determined that this declaration was not legally binding and therefore should not prove an obstacle to launching negotiations on schedule.

3. (C) Croatia, Balkans: The Polish position on Croatia has not changed, despite pressure from some member states, most notably Hungary, to dismiss concerns about ICTY compliance. Poland will continue to insist on full cooperation with the Tribunal, Koleccka assured us. Concerning Romania and Bulgaria, Koleccka indicated that Poland wants to stick to the target dates for accession and believes that it remains premature to discuss any postponement.

4. (C) Middle East: Solana will arrive at the Newport meeting directly from the Middle East, and so will provide the foreign ministers with a fresh report on developments there and what steps can now be taken to move the process forward. Koleccka highlighted concerns among EU members, Poland included, about unhelpful moves by Israeli authorities, including evictions of Palestinians in East Jerusalem and establishment of new settlements in the West Bank. The Sharon government's actions in Gaza were extremely positive, Koleccka observed, but this momentum should not be slowed by these other measures.

5. (C) Iran, Iraq: Poland's objectives with regard to Iran remain supporting EU efforts to get Iran to suspend its enrichment activity and to return to the negotiating table, Koleccka said, while also ensuring that the EU consults closely with key partners such as the United States. We must begin to look ahead to next steps in the context of the next IAEA report due in September, she noted. On Iraq, Poland will continue to press to have the EC office opened in Baghdad as quickly as possible, and will urge EU enhanced engagement, such as judiciary and police training, and establishment of more bilateral diplomatic missions.

6. (C) Belarus, Ukraine, Russia: Koleccka explained that the Poles were unsuccessful in getting Belarus added to an admittedly already-ambitious Gymnich agenda, but that FM Rotfeld will certainly highlight Polish concerns about the deteriorating situation there and may also make a general appeal for EU support for independent media (if not specifically mentioning the external broadcast project). In the context of discussions on enlargement, Rotfeld will encourage the EU to remain engaged with Ukraine and to move forward with the action plan. On Russia, the Polish foreign minister will likely make a philosophical presentation, Koleccka explained, reviewing the challenges of responding to retrograde actions by Putin while maintaining vitally important cooperation with Russia on non-proliferation, terrorism, energy and other issues. Rotfeld, she said, is certain to highlight the importance of ensuring that dialogue between Europe and Russia is not restricted to the governmental level, but includes all elements of civil society.

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